

RESOLUTION NO. 14-352

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that a distinguished citizen, LaFreeda M. Jordan, will be honored with the "Government Relations Leadership Award" during the Thirteenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet sponsored by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., of the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University Alumni Association, Inc., held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the beautiful campus of Alabama A&M University on June 7, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, Miss LaFreeda M. Jordan is a native of Montgomery, Alabama, and the second daughter of the late Richard S. Jordan, Jr. and Mrs. Viola H. Jordan. Her parents, graduates of Alabama State University, served as civil rights activists and long-time friends of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the late Coretta Scott King. They were members of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where Dr. King served as pastor; and,

WHEREAS, the name LaFreeda has a significant meaning. In the book "Reflections on Our Pastor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church" edited by Wally C. Vaughn and Richard W. Vills. Her father and mother wrote reflections in the book regarding their involvement with Dr. King and told the story why she was named LaFreeda. It was during the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965 lead by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that Mrs. Jordan, pregnant with her second child, went into labor the morning of the Selma to Montgomery March. She was taken to St. Jude Hospital by her husband, but the doctor told her "the baby was not coming today. Today is my anniversary. You go home and wait." They returned home but labor pains did not lessen. It was late that evening when they headed back to St. Jude Hospital and a big rally was held on the grounds of St. Jude because she gave natural birth to a second daughter that evening on the grounds where the Selma to Montgomery closing rally was being held. The father said enthusiastically "let's name her Freedom." He wanted to give her a name that would bring to mind memories of the struggle. The name had to be linked with and have the sound of Freedom. Of course, the mother had to compromise with her husband and the child was named LaFreeda M. Jordan; and,

WHEREAS, LaFreeda earned the Bachelor of Science degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Also, her three sisters Sharon, Richele and Vera are graduates of Spellman College. She started her professional career in government service in 1988 where she managed United States Senator Richard C. Shelby's Central Alabama congressional Office in Montgomery, Alabama, and interacted with state officials, agency representatives, and city and county governments. In 2001, Miss Jordan served as Regional Director for Senator Shelby. In that position, she was his principal state liaison to the Marshall Space Flight Center, NASA and the space and defense industries in North Alabama; and,

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WHEREAS, after providing more than twenty-five years (25) of dedicated and untiring government service, she retired in 2013. As a learned professional in government relations, within a few months following her retirement as Senator Shelby's longtime aide, she was hired as an Assistant Vice Chancellor of the University of Alabama System. In that position, she assists with government relations and economic development issues for the UA System; and,

WHEREAS, Miss Jordan is very active in numerous professional, civic and community organizations which include but not limited to Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links Incorporated, Greater Huntsville Chapter, The Junior League, Leadership Montgomery and Huntsville, and the Spelman College Alumnae Association. She is a faithful member of First Missionary Baptist Church under the pastoral leadership of Dr. Julius R. Scruggs. In her spare time, she enjoys community service, traveling, cooking, gardening, shopping for antiques, outdoor concerts, watching news programs and college football.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and congratulate Miss Lafreeda M. Jordan, honoree of the 2014 "Government Relations Leadership Award", and extend best wishes to her and the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., for continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the _____ day of _____, 2014.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the _____ day of _____, 2014.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

